

FORWARD

Career Development at the Elementary Level

Providing career development and career awareness opportunities for elementary school students is not a new idea nor program. It is part of North Carolina's Standard Course of Study, has been endorsed by the State Board of Education, and is promoted by the state's School-to-Work initiative, Job Ready. The national experience suggests, however, that the sequential, comprehensive delivery of career development competencies can be most easily and effectively accomplished through counselor-teacher collaboration. School counselors are already providing many of the career development competencies through current programs, and teachers often welcome ways to incorporate career development into classroom instruction. The question now being asked is "How do we build or enhance our elementary career development program?"

This Guide

This Career Awareness Guide is an initial effort to address this question. Its purpose is to assist elementary school counselors and teachers to identify current counseling and classroom activities which already support career development and suggest ways to incorporate additional competencies into their programs.

- *The Introductory Section references the National Career Development Competencies and state counseling goals, and lists programs where some of these competencies are already being provided.
- *The sample Activities (Section II) illustrate how teachers can include career development competencies within their subject area lesson plans.
- *The Workshop Outline (Section III) offers a guide for counselor-teacher teams who are interested in developing appropriate classroom activities for their school, in order to build comprehensive program.
- *The Resources Section (IV) is for counselors and teachers K-14, and is also available in the Career Choices Resource Guide (Activity Book for middle and high schools).

Acknowledgements

This Guide is a collaborative project of the Department of Public Instruction, Instructional and Guidance Services Section, the Job Ready Office and the State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee. The Project Directors are indebted to the elementary counselors and teachers from Davidson, Guilford and Wake Counties who participated in this project and developed the activities for this Guide. Our thanks to Deborah Mangum and Beth Rouse, Wake County Schools, for their coordination efforts, and very special thank you to Jean Williams who formatted and edited the activities and cross referenced them to the Standard Course of Study and the National Career Development Guidelines. Without her time and talents, this project would not have been possible.